

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

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DRAFTED BY L/ARA:M.KOZAK:JV
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA
INFO GOV PAN CANAL
US SOUTHCOM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: PANAMANIAN LAW
CONCERNING FOREIGN FLAGS

1. SEVERAL QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CONGRESS AS WELL AS IN CORRESPONDENCE FROM INTERESTED GROUPS CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO FLY THE AMERICAN FLAG UNDER THE NEW TREATY. AS YOU KNOW, THE TREATY DEALS SOLELY WITH THE QUESTION OF USE OF THE FLAG BY OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND ABSENT FURTHER AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA, THE RIGHTS OF PRIVATE PARTIES WOULD BE GOVERNED BY PANAMANIAN LAW. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD DETERMINE THE STATUS OF PANAMANIAN LAW ON THIS MATTER. SPECIFICALLY, COULD INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS FLY THE U.S. FLAG AT THEIR PLACES OF RESIDENCE ON U.S. NATIONAL HOLIDAYS SUCH

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AS THE FOURTH OF JULY? COULD ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE AMERICAN LEGION AND VFW DISPLAY THE FLAG AT THEIR OFFICES AND/OR IN CEREMONIES? WOULD THE CURRENT PRACTICE OF MAINTAINING U.S. FLAGS AT THE GRAVE SITES OF ETHERNS BURIED IN THE PRESENT CANAL ZONE CEMETERIES BE AFFECTED? WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION FOR THE RECORD BY THE SFRC, AND WOULD APPRECIATE A PROMPT RESPONSE. VANCE

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Disposition Event:
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